

MINUTES OF THE QUEENSLAND ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and GENERAL MEETING

Held at Leyburn CWA Hall, Leyburn

on

Saturday 7th December 2024

Meeting opened: 2.35pm

Present: As per attendance list noted on last page

Apologies: Karen Lee, Chris Nichols, Mark Grogan, Saasha Grogan, Christal Blonde, Michael Chapman,

Dick acknowledged the passing of Barry Akers, Robin Young, Bruce Seaward and Louise Lewis Pratt (past president of AERA). These members contributed greatly to our sport and were very well respected.

Motion 1 – 2024 That the apologies for the 2024 AGM be accepted and tabled

Gayle Holmes moved; Olly Lochtenberg seconded. Carried

Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting held 9th December 2023 – no discussion was held regarding these Minutes. AGM Minutes from 9th December 2023 were acknowledged as being sent electronically to all members in January 2024 and passed as true and correct.

End of Year Committee Reports – (all reports were sent electronically to members prior to the 2024 AGM. All reports are available on the QERA webpage)

Business arising from End of Year Reports:

Dick Collyer

President, Vet Liaison, AERA Management Committee, Registrar Liaison, Archives, Southern Ride Trailer Manager

Dick thanked the SMC committee for being a great team. He commented that their professionalism as volunteers and busy people shines through. The SMC meetings can be quite robust at times with many issues to deal with when managing the sport of endurance. Dick spoke about his portfolio and the different roles he holds. Dick thanked Colleen Shaw for her continued contribution and work ethics to the role of Registrar.

Rod Strahan

Vice President, Strategic Plan Updates, Biosecurity, Idexx Machine Management, QERA Memorabilia Storage Facility Co-ordinator, AERA Delegate

As a delegate on the AERA meetings he found the AERA meetings extremely tedious, however it was an insight that Dick and Kim do a lot of work behind the scenes with representing QERA on a large scale. The proposal for the memorabilia facility was presented at the General Forum.

Karen Winkel

Treasurer, Budgeting, Government Grants, Ride Affiliation Fees

Jillian Colwell asked about online membership and the costs associated with this. Karen reported that the Personal Accident insurance will increase. Dick thanked Karen for the great job she has done this year.

The 2024 Audited Financial Reports are available to all members on the webpage.

Colleen Shaw

Registrar

Colleen's report reported statistics for not only membership numbers, but also new data of the number of rides held over the years. Colleen's hours are 3 mornings a week, and she is always available to ride organisers during their ride if they should have any questions.

Olaf Lichtenberg

Horse Welfare Officer, Early Warning System Manager, QERA Swabbing Manager, Northern Ride Trailer Manager

2024 resulted in a large reduction of Early Warning Letters being sent out to trainers and riders. This may be that QERA members are becoming more knowledgeable with looking after their horses at rides.

Virginia Barber

Youth Development Programs, Sponsorship and Promotion, Website Liaison, OTT Programs, PCAQ Representative

The recently held Junior Camp was a great success, with 21 juniors attending including 10 new members. Tracey Eastaughffe thanked Virginia for a well organised junior camp event. It was reported that the kids had a fun time enjoying activities such as trail riding, arena work, jumping and swimming in the river.

Kim Moir

AERA Management Committee, Facebook Moderator, Ride Calendar Co-ordinator, Club Liaison

The 2025 ride calendar is now at version 10 and can be viewed on the webpage. There are currently 40 proposed rides for 2025. The ride organisers meeting will be held late January 2025. Kim works closely with all ride organisers and although challenging at times, it is also very rewarding to have a full ride calendar for our members. AERA management committee and delegate committee positions were discussed and how the nomination process takes place to have representatives at AERA. Insurance claims throughout the year were not always at events, most claims came from training at home. Kim reminded members to keep safe at home when training as well as when competing at events.

Pandora Bevan

QERA Yearbook co-ordinator, Sponsorship and Promotion, Facebook Moderator

Pandora was active on our social media posts with the promotion of end of year points and distance awards for 2024. The yearbook is being finalised and should be available to members by early January 2025. The cost of the magazine is approx. \$25 per copy which is included in the membership costs.

The main goal for 2025 is to update the webpage, showcasing a good starting point for new members to go to including information on rules and events.

Kristie Sheehan

Chief Steward Accreditation and Liaison, State Championship Liaison

The 2024 Widgee State Championship was well organised. The sport always needs more Chief Stewards.

Allison Brown

End of Year Awards Co-ordinator, Member Protection Officer, Volunteer Recognition and Promotion

Allison thanked Dick for organising the venues for the AGM and EOY awards. Allison spoke about nominating our endurance members for annual state EQ awards and this year Dick Collyer was awarded for his recognition as a significant volunteer in the endurance world. Allison presented a token of thanks on behalf of the members.

Chris Nichols

Webpage Co-ordinator

(absent from the meeting) QERA is working on upgrading our webpage. The webpage gets many hits.

Duncan Woodhead

NRZ Representative, TPR Co-ordinator

Dick stated that as a NRZ Representative, this person has voting rights at the QERA meetings. Duncan will be leaving the sport to pursue his interests in travel and we welcome Xanthe Webb back to the role of representative for the Northern Rivers Zone. Dick thanked Duncan for his time on the SMC. We have many TPR's in our sport who are available to volunteer at rides. Horse temperatures can now be read via a microchip which is a safer option than a rectal reading. Craig Ellison spoke about faulty microchips, and this will be discussed later with Harry Wever. Tracey Eastaughffe asked what is the rule regarding the readings from the scanners? Alana Simpson said that the microchip readings can at times be inaccurate, and a rectal reading may be used.

Motion 2 - 2024 That the QERA Treasurer's Report and the Audited Financial Report for 2024 be accepted.

Moved Christine Ablett, seconded Kim Moir, Carried

Motion 3 - 2024 That the 2024 End of Year Committee Reports be accepted as tabled.

Moved Gayle Holmes, seconded Xanthe Webb, Carried

Election of Executive, Committee and Office Bearers

The State Management Committee for 2025 is:

President	Dick Collyer	(nominated and unopposed for 2025)
Vice President	Rod Strahan	(second year of term)
Treasurer	Karen Winkel	(nominated and unopposed for 2025)
Secretary	Susan Sutcliffe	(second year of term)

Committee Members

Olaf Lochtenberg	(second year of term)
Pandora Bevan	(second year of term)
Kristie Sheehan	(second year of term)
Kim Moir	(elected)
Allison Brown	(elected)
Craig Ellison	(elected)

Dick thanked Tracey Irwin for her nomination. If a casual vacancy should become available throughout the year, Tracey will have the opportunity to fill this position. Dick also thanked Virginia for her time on the SMC. Virginia played an integral part with the Junior Youth Development and has been offered to continue with this role in 2025.

Dick invited Craig Ellison to the SMC table.

Nominations were called for the Independent Disciplinary Panel for a 2-year term (2025/2026):

In preparation for the meeting, Dick spoke to the current five members of the IDP and asked if they would like to stand again for another 2-year term. All members agreed to stand again. No nominations were proposed from the floor.

Motion 4 – 2024 Acceptance of the 5 outgoing members to retain their positions on the IDP. Sabrina Stephens, Gavin Bartlett, Stephanie Malmberg, Gayle Holmes, Virginia Dale

Rod Strahan moved, Christine Ablett seconded, carried

Appointment of an Auditor

Motion 5 - 2024 That QERA employs the services of Kevin Dellow, Dellow and Associates, as Auditor for Queensland Endurance Riders Association (QERA) 2025

Moved Karen Winkel, seconded, Karen Johanson, Carried.

Election of Returning Officer for 2025

Christine Ablett is our current Returning Officer 2024

Allison Brown nominated Christine Ablett, seconded Gayle Holmes. No other nominations were received. Christine accepted the nomination and will hold the position of Returning Officer for 2025.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2025

MOTIONS to AWARD HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Motion:

That Dr Harry Wever's QERA Honorary Membership is renewed for 2025

Moved: Dick Collyer 40527

Seconded: Kim Moir 42810

Rationale:

AERA Inc Constitution:

(3) a) An honorary member is a member who has been recognised by the Association as having provided special services to the sport of Endurance Riding and is nominated and approved as an honorary member at an Annual General Meeting of the Association.

b) A nomination for honorary membership shall be made by at least two financial members in writing, served on the Association at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and shall appear with the Notices of Motion provided to members prior to the Annual General Meeting.

c) The appointment as honorary member shall be for the following membership year with all existing honorary members being considered for reappointment at the Annual General Meeting of the Association without the need for renomination.

d) An honorary member shall not be required to pay a membership fee to the Association but shall have voting rights as an ordinary member.

e) The Association shall not have at any one time more than 15 honorary members.

As one of QERA's Honorary vets, Harry has continued to be the Head Vet and/or Treatment vet at many rides. He has travelled interstate to vet at various rides including in Tasmania and at TQ24 in South Australia. He has continued to mentor new vets into our sport. Harry has brought vast veterinary experience into our sport in the last 8 years and his leadership of our veterinary teams has always been calm, balanced and humble. He is a QERA representative to the AERA National Vet Panel. Harry was Head Vet for the 2023 Quilty and his leadership in that role resulted in excellent vetting processes and outcomes. Harry has agreed to be Head Vet for the 2026 Quilty.

Discussion:

Kim stated that Harry is a great asset to any endurance event. He gives excellent counsel to the other vets and is a very well rewarded recipient of this award. Allison presented Harry with a token of gratitude.

Harry said that he has remained in the sport because it is a good place to be on weekends. He enjoys the company of the members and watching how we all look after our horses at endurance rides. The network among the endurance family is very rewarding.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (awarded by the Division Association)

Christine Ablett

- * Began endurance riding in 1988 – at a Samford Ride, where line honours went to Junior rider Brook Sample on Sharahd Melodie
 - * Over 4500kms completions in over 60 rides
 - * A Quilty buckle and a Faraway goblet
 - * However, as a volunteer at endurance rides, according to the Aeraspace records which only go back to 2013, has been TPR, Data entry person, track marker, ride administration, ride secretary, ride nominations, and significant volunteer in many other ways – at 90 rides!
- Lately, not much riding, so her volunteering has increased significantly: 2024 – 6 rides; 2023 – 11 rides; 2022 – 8 rides; 2021 – 11 rides; 2020 – 6 rides; 2019 – 11 rides.

Susan Sutcliffe

- * Began endurance riding in 1996
 - * A big rider – over 14000 kms; 175 rides: 7 x TQ buckles; 4 x Faraway goblets; 2 x State Championships; 5 x 1* and 1 x 3* rides.
 - * Also, a Ride organiser – the driving force behind one of popular rides in SEQ
 - * For 12 years she has had the hardest job in any not-for-profit association – Secretary.
 - * Put her hand up at the 2012 AGM to replace a secretary who some of us thought was irreplaceable – Anne Jones. But, over the last 12 years, Sue has brought her own dedication, efficiency, longevity, common sense, perspective and character to our sport.
- Better still, she has brought 2 children and soon many grandchildren are expected to follow.....

ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR DISCUSSION

That membership fees for 2025 be changed as follows:

- Standard adult riding membership to be increased by \$20
- Associate membership to be increased by \$10
- Gold Card to remain the same as 2024
- Junior riding membership to remain the same as 2024

Moved by: Karen Winkel M/Ship No: 42227

Seconded by: Dick Collyer M/Ship No: 40527

Rationale:

Due to increasing costs, I would like to recommend that Membership Fees for 2024 be changed as detailed above. To encourage more volunteers, I recommend that Gold Card membership remains the same as 2024. It should be noted that any increase in Public Liability Insurance will also be incorporated into the 2025 Fees.

Discussion:

Dick stated what each class of membership represented. Kristie Sheehan mentioned that for members to be eligible for gold card membership, they must be accepted by a club that shows they have significantly volunteered in the sport. The Gold Card is to encourage more volunteers to help at rides.

Personal Accident is an individual option and will be increased by \$5.00. This is a fixed price.

(In favour) Karen Winkel stated that the need to increase the costs of our membership is due to the rising costs of the sport expenses.

(Against) Gayle Homes why are we increasing the price when our numbers are decreasing? I think the membership cost should stay the same.

Roy Barsby said he is a gold card member. He spoke very passionately about the length of time he has been not only a rider, but also a significant volunteer to the sport. Gold card membership does not help volunteers if they do not ride. He would like to propose that volunteers are rewarded with a prize draw at the end of the year. Dick stated that Roy's comment was relevant to giving a reward for volunteering but is not focused on the motion for discussion.

(Against) Tracey Eastaughffe said we need to take into consideration the rising costs of all the fees, including membership fees, ride entry fees, insurance.

(In favour) Craig Ellison stated that football membership is about 3 times as much and that membership to endurance is much cheaper than many other sports. Tracey Eastaughffe responded that on top of membership, other sports do not have to pay significant amounts of money to enter each event they participate in.

Dick suggested an amendment be made to the motion that the increase is made 1st March 2025. This would give members the opportunity to pay at the 2024 prices (i.e. an Early Bird special for members to pay membership before the increase is enforced).

(Against the amendment to the motion) Karen Winkel stated that with this “Early Bird Special”, most members would pay in the first 2 months of the year, therefore this would not be of any benefit to the sport, apart from having a sustained membership basis. The original motion is about increasing the costs to cover increasing expenses. If the motion is amended, then she amends the first motion to \$40.00 for standard adult membership, to be effective by 2nd March 2025.

(In favour) Kim stated that by increasing membership fees gives a correlation of keeping in line with balance sheets and meeting financial requirements. We must be careful not to devalue volunteers whose input keeps costs down. Each ride organiser must have money in the bank to cover expenses to run a ride. We may need to revisit the association fee for the purpose of keeping our sport in a healthy financial status.

Dick withdrew his proposed amendment due to Karen’s motion to increase the standard adult membership fee to \$40.00 if the amended motion should go ahead.

Gayle Holmes stated there is incentive to the amendment for members to get in early and pay their membership. Virginia also agreed with the Early Bird Special of paying membership fees early.

(Motion 1a) Amendment to the motion –

That membership fees for 2025 be changed as follows:

- **Standard adult riding membership to be increased by \$20**
- **Associate membership to be increased by \$10**
- **Gold Card to remain the same as 2024**
- **Junior riding membership to remain the same as 2024**

The increase of fees will commence from 1st March 2025

Gayle Holmes moved, Virginia Barber seconded (discussion continued)

Karen Winkel is unsure how long the Sport Rec and Grant funding will be available to QERA. This has been going on for a long time and has significantly contributed to keeping our sport active. This year we received \$7000.00 to upgrade the database and give our members a better platform to view the sports operations.

(In favour of the second motion) Harry stated that the incentive of the Early Bird Special is to encourage members to stay in the sport for another year. We need to investigate why our membership is decreasing and reevaluate these reasons.

(Motion 1b) Amendment to motion 1a – That the adult riding membership fee will increase by \$20.00, and the Associate membership will increase by \$10.00 as of 15th February 2025

Karen Winkel moved, Kim Moir seconded

Dick called for a vote for the amended motion (1b) to be accepted or not? This was carried out by a show of hands of which Christine counted. The result was 12 in favour of the motion, 12 against the motion, 2 abstained from the motion. Due to the tie, Motion 1b was lost.

Dick then called for a vote for the amended motion (1a) to be accepted or not? This was carried out by a show of hands of which Christine counted. The result was 13 in favour of the motion, 11 against the motion, 5 abstained from the motion. Motion 1a was accepted and will go to the membership for voting.

Dick asked the members if there were any other motions to be discussed at the AGM. Craig Ellison said he had a motion regarding prize money which was a follow up from the discussions held during the General Forum earlier in the day.

Motion 2 – That the members move to have the following motion discussed regarding the capping of the value of prizes.

Moved Craig Ellison, seconded by Xanthe Webb, carried

Motion 2a - The relevant state management committee has the discretion to allow an exception to the prize value cap. Such an application must be in the best interest of the sport and not a result in major increases to horse welfare concerns. The event must be at minimum, either or over 120km or a multi-day event.

Moved Craig Ellison, seconded Xanthe Webb, carried

Rationale

Xanthe Webb stated that this motion proposes that the relevant state management committee be granted the authority to approve exceptions to the prize value cap, provided the application is in the best interest of the sport, does not pose significant risks to horse welfare, and contributes to the maintenance and promotion of endurance membership within the community. The event must involve a minimum distance of 120 km or be a multi-day competition. The rationale for this motion is to encourage membership growth, the positive promotion of the sport of endurance, and the attraction of external sponsorship, particularly for key events or those of significant importance.

(For the motion) Craig Ellison stated that we are a very marketable sport, and we need to encourage significant sponsorship to encourage more people to our sport. With this motion, the SMC will have the discretion to approve significant sponsorship.

(Against the motion) Lyndell opposed the motion as her concern is how do we manage who receives significant prizes i.e. best managed, best conditioned? She does however agree that changes need to be made to the value of the prizes.

Harry Wever stated that an award for Best Managed is a good idea and this could be awarded by a panel of vets, rather than an individual vet.

(For the motion) Gayle Holmes said this concept was first proposed many years ago to be awarded to the winner, however it would be giving more incentive to riders if their names were drawn from the pool, rather than the winner of the event.

Ken stated that it does not make any difference whether it is money or prizes, people will still be competitive. We always need to be mindful of our motto in our sport “to compete is to win”.

(For the motion) Olly stated that this motion encourages members to compete in 120km events or multi day competitions.

Dick reported that the proposed motion will go to members to vote. If accepted, the motion will then go to AERA for voting. If approved, the new amendment to the rule regarding prize value will be introduced into the rule book for 2026.

Craig Ellison gave a right of reply to his motion. This motion would give the SMC discretion to make the decision of increasing the prize value pool to be greater than \$5000.00, however this would be a case-by-case situation. At this stage the motion is about allowing the members and the SMC to have the discussion to approve significant sponsorship within the realms of our rules for the sport. The proposed idea is to attract new members to the sport with significant sponsorship on offer as a prize.

Meeting closed 4.34pm

Attending Members 2024

(2024 – 39 attended) (2020 – 39 attended)

(2023 – 33 attended) (2019 – 57 attended)

(2022 – 30 attended) (2018 - 77 attended)

(2021 – 35 attended) (2017 - 74 attended)

Meeting closed 4.48pm

Attendance Members Register 2024:

Lyndell Abercrombie	Christine Ablett	Virginia Barber	Joanne Barsby	Suzanne Berryman
Pandora Bevan	Allison Brown	Michael Brown	Troy Butler	Michelle Chapman
Richard Collyer	Jillian Colwell	Tracey Eastaughffe	Craig Ellison	Stephen Gray
Gayle Holmes	Karen Johanson	Tracey Kirby	Mark Liesegang	Linda Lochtenberg
Olaf Lochtenberg	Linda Logan	Stephanie Malmberg	Elizabeth Moir	Kenneth Moir
Peter Scott	Kristie Sheehan	Alana Simpson	Roderick Strahan	Susan Sutcliffe
Xanthe Webb	Karen Winkel	Caroline Woodhead	Duncan Woodhead	Harry Wever
Harry Wever				
<i>Non-Members or non-voting members</i>				
Renae Green	Michael Sheehan	Colleen Shaw	Natalie Liesegang	Roy Barsby
Jay Randle	Josh Berryman	Tracey Irwin	Charlotte Irwin (Junior)	Emma Forbes (Junior)